

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 3117 - SB 2998

February 27, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Redefines an infamous crime for purposes of retaining the right to vote. Authorizes incarcerated felons to vote with the exception of persons convicted of voter fraud, treason, first degree murder, or aggravated rape.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$5,250/FY15-16

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$10,500/FY12-13
\$5,250/FY13-14
\$10,500/FY14-15***

Assumptions:


- Current law disqualifies convicted felons from voting and requires the criminal or circuit court clerks to send notice of such conviction to the county election commission office.
- The bill disqualifies only persons convicted of voter fraud, first degree murder, treason, or aggravated rape. Since only these persons will lose their right to vote, all other inmates will be allowed to vote by absentee ballot.
- There are approximately 20,000 inmates incarcerated in Tennessee's adult institutions.
- This estimate assumes that 25% or 5,000 of those incarcerated will request an absentee ballot.
- Mailing an application to a voter will cost \$.45; mailing the absentee ballot will cost \$.45; and mailing the ballot/instructions will cost approximately \$.15, resulting in a total cost per voter of \$1.05.
- The total mailing cost per election is estimated to be \$5,250 (5,000 x \$1.05 per absentee voter).
- In FY12-13 and FY14-15, the increase in local expenditures will be \$10,500 (\$5,250 x 2 elections in August and November).
- In FY13-14, the increase in local expenditures will be \$5,250 for the May primary.
- In FY15-16, the increase in state expenditures will be \$5,250 for the Presidential Preference Primary. The county primary will be held in conjunction with the Presidential Preference Primary, which is paid with state funds.

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*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/rct